

# **Immanuel ( God's dwelling among his People)**

**By Harris Kakoulides**

While debating through text with a woman who became Jewish who was at one point Christian in her life but through lack of understanding the scripture fell into law keeping and lastly rejecting the messiahship of Jesus. She said at the ending of the debate Jesus was never called Immanuel by his disciples or parents. Before I could give an answer to her comment she blocked me so I could not give her an answer so this article is about this very Topic. What does it mean they will call his name Immanuel. Below is the prophecy in Isaiah concerning the virgin birth and the fulfillment with the meaning of Immanuel.

Isa 7:14 "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. (NKJV)

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: **"Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."** (Matthew 1:18-23 NKJV)

Before I begin we need to come to an acknowledgement of who is writing this in the Gospel of Matthew and we see that it was Matthew. Jesus own disciple saying this prophecy was fulfilled in the person of Jesus.

And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; (Matthew 10:1-3 NKJV)

Even The early church believed Matthew wrote the Gospel which bears his name.

## **Fragments of Papias**

{"Matthew put together the oracles [of the Lord] in the Hebrew language, and each one interpreted them as best he could."}

So What we got in Matthew Chapter One is Jesus own disciple calling Jesus by the name Immanuel. And

what does that name mean, we see its meaning in verse 23 , " which is translated, "God with us."

Did the disciples of Jesus believe Jesus to be the living God dwelling among them. And the answer is yes they did believe it. John starts his Gospel with the words :

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. (John 1:1-3 NKJV)

He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. (John 1:10 NKJV)

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14 NKJV)

Then in that very same Gospel we read of Thomas saying calling Jesus my Lord and my God after Jesus' resurrection :

Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." (John 20:27-29 NKJV)

So This is just 3 out of 12 Testimonies of his disciples calling Jesus Immanuel. They truly believed that Jesus was the God of the Old Testament dwelling among their midst.

Peter in a sermon after the day of Pentecost calls Jesus the Author or Prince of Life.

"But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, "and killed the **Prince of life**, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses. (Acts 3:14-15 NKJV)

Only God is the author or Prince of life for he is the creator of it . To attribute this to a man. means Peter thought more highly of Jesus than he would think of any human. But he also in the same passage calls him the Holy one. A clear reference to God in the Old Testament.

Isa 5:19 That say, "Let Him make speed and hasten His work, That we may see it; And let the counsel of **the Holy One of Israel** draw near and come, That we may know it."

Isa 5:24 Therefore, as the fire devours the stubble, And the flame consumes the chaff, So their root will be as rottenness, And their blossom will ascend like dust; Because they have rejected the law of the LORD of hosts, And despised the word of **the Holy One of Israel**.

We also see Peter in the Gospel of John saying to Jesus you know all things.

Joh 21:17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep.

Saying that Jesus is omniscient. Being infinite in your knowing is a attribute that should only belong to God.

And here in this passage he is saying to Jesus you know my inner emotions towards you. This is clearly a attribute which the Old Testament teaches us only belongs to God, to test the inside of man and know him from the inside aswell as from the outside.

"The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings. (Jeremiah 17:9-10 NKJV)

Eze 37:3 And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" So I answered, "O Lord GOD, You know."

In One occasion John tells us in his Gospel Jesus knew all men and what was in man.

But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men, and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man. (John 2:24-25 NKJV)

Jesus knew the woman at the well and was able to tell her of her pass.

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,' "for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly." The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. (John 4:16-19 NKJV)

We also see that Jesus claimed to be in more places then his current location.

"No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, **the Son of Man who is in heaven.** (John 3:13 NKJV)

( For those who say like Liberals that I have spoken to Jesus never claimed to be the son of man, lets quickly before reading the other refferance go to Matthew 16 where Jesus claims to be the Son of man.

Mt 16:13 ¶ When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "**Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?**"

Now lets look at a other refferance where Jesus claims to be in more than one location at the same time.

"For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:20 NKJV)

We also see Jesus speak in plural form as if the Trinity was in the Human body of Jesus which it was. We see this in his conversion with Nicodemus

Joh 3:11 "Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness.

Only Nicodemus and Jesus was there, who are the we? We know who is the you in referance, it is Nicodemus. So if the we can not be the disciples it has to be in referance to God the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Truely in Jesus we have the God incarnated for us. Even God the Father calls his son God.

But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your Kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions." And: "You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; And they will all grow old like a garment; (Hebrews 1:8-11 NKJV)

Some might say Jesus only claimed to be the Son of God and not God. But in himself claiming to be God's son he was claiming to be God. That was the way the Jews understood it. You are whatever your father is . If your Father is God then you are God. Also in the Old Testament The Sons of the Prophets were Prophets. It meant belonging to the prophets. Lets see that in scripture:

**Now a certain man of the sons of the prophets said to his neighbor by the word of the LORD,** "Strike me, please." And the man refused to strike him. Then he said to him, "Because you have not obeyed the voice of the LORD, surely, as soon as you depart from me, a lion shall kill you." And as soon as he left him, a lion found him and killed him. And he found another man, and said, "Strike me, please." So the man struck him, inflicting a wound. **Then the prophet departed and waited for the king by the road,** and disguised himself with a bandage over his eyes. Now as the king passed by, he cried out to the king and said, "Your servant went out into the midst of the battle; and there, a man came over and brought a man to me, and said, 'Guard this man; if by any means he is missing, your life shall be for his life, or else you shall pay a talent of silver.' "While your servant was busy here and there, he was gone." Then the king of Israel said to him, "So shall your judgment be; you yourself have decided it." And he hastened to take the bandage away from his eyes; and the king of Israel recognized him as **one of the prophets.** (1 Kings 20:35-41 NKJV)

Notice the Sons of the prophets meant he was a prophet. Now Lets look at the Jews reaction when Jesus claims to be son of God.

For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath. But Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working." Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God. (John 5:16-18 NKJV)

"I and My Father are one." Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, "Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?" The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God." (John 10:30-33 NKJV)

To them Jesus claiming Sonship of the Father meant He was claiming to be equal with God , He was claiming to be God. Now What does Paul tells us about Jesus nature . Let's read from the NIV which gets it right according to the Greek.

**Who, being in very nature God,** did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. (Philippians 2:6-7 NIV)

The Greek word is **μορφή** morphe and it speaks of nature. What the Father and the Holy Spirit are by nature so is the Son . The Father and Holy Spirit is God so is the Son God.

Paul thought of Jesus more than a man. He thought of Him as the God man. In speaking to the church of Galatians he states

But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. **For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.** (Galatians 1:11-12 NKJV)

For him to say that he got his Gospel not from man but by Jesus Christ, he is claiming for Jesus a nature higher than human and that is of God. Not that he denied Jesus humanity for in the same passage of Philipians he claims Jesus became man.

who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, **and coming in the likeness of men.** (Philippians 2:6-7 NKJV)

And in other places he makes it clear that Jesus was also a man.

For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, **the Man Christ Jesus,** (1 Timothy 2:5 NKJV)

Ac 13:38 "Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through **this Man** is preached to you the forgiveness of sins;

As a man He was Tempted

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. (Matthew 4:1 NKJV)

As a man He Hungered

And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. (Matthew 4:2 NKJV)

As a man He thirst

Joh 19:28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!"

As a man he wept

Jesus wept. (John 11:35 NKJV)

As a man he felt tired

Joh 4:6 Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

As a man he died

Mr 15:37 And Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and breathed His last.

As God he could speak about his preexistence with the Father

"And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. (John 17:5 NKJV)

As God he could forgive sins

When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you." And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" (Mark 2:5-7 NKJV)

As God he could command Someone to break the Sabbath

Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath. The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed." He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.'" (John 5:8-11 NKJV)

So in Jesus we have something unique. God and Man in one . Immanuel God with us . God said in the Old Testament he would dwell among his people. In Jesus we see how it came to pass. Notice in these passages the future tense " will".

Ex 29:45 **"I will dwell among the children of Israel and will be their God.**

1Ki 6:13 **"And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake My people Israel."**

Eze 43:7 ¶ And He said to me, "Son of man, this is the place of My throne and the place of the soles of My feet, **where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel forever.** No more shall the house of Israel defile My holy name, they nor their kings, by their harlotry or with the carcasses of their kings on their high places.

Eze 43:9 "Now let them put their harlotry and the carcasses of their kings far away from Me, **and I will dwell in their midst forever.**

Zec 2:10 ¶ "Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion! **For behold, I am coming and I will dwell in your midst," says the LORD.**

Zec 2:11 "Many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and they shall become My people. **And I will dwell in your midst.** Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you.

Truely in Jesus it was fullfill and will also be fullfill again in the future were God will dwell with humanity again in the person of Jesus at his return.

Re 21:3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.(NKJV)